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ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SY-05 SYE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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P 211945Z JUL 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3086
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 5343
E.O. 12065: GDS 7/18/86 (LELAWRENCE) OR-AMB
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE UPDATE
REF (A) KINGSTON 3082 (B) KINGSTON 3208
1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: WE ARE INITIATING WEEKLY REPORTS ON VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA. JULY 9-15 PERIOD SAW 30 MURDERS, MOSTLY IN KINGSTON. JLP RESTRAINT FROM RETALIATING MAY BE WEAKENING. COUNTRY-WIDE MURDER RATE FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS 1980 ALMOST EXCEEDS AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE 1977-79. MANLEY AND SEAGA ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AND MANLEY MEETS WITH SECURITY FORCES JULY 18 TO DISCUSS MEANS OF CONTROLLING SITUATION WHICH COULD GROW BEYOND GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO CONTROL. END SUMMARY.
3. THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF WEEKLY REPORTS ON VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA. IT COVERS THE PERIOD JULY 9-JULY 15. SUBSEQUENT REPORTS WILL BE SENT WHILE THE CURRENT LEVEL OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES. (WE REGRET THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO

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MEET OUR DEADLINE FOR THIS FIRST REPORT BUT WILL DO BETTER ON THE NEXT.
4. INCIDENTS BREAKDOWN - JULY 9-15

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED MURDERS	30
B. SUSPECTED POLITICALLY MOTIVATED MURDERS	10
C. SUSPECTED CRIMINALLY MOTIVATED MURDERS	6
D. MURDERS OF UNKNOWN MOTIVATION	14

(THESE STATISTICS ARE FROM THE DAILY GLEANER WHICH REPORTS INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE INFORMATION CENTER (PIC). WHILE ONLY MURDERS ARE REPORTED, THERE ARE NUMEROUS OTHER INCIDENTS SUCH AS ARSON, INTIMIDATION AND NON-LETHAL ATTACKS FOR WHICH STATISTICS ARE NOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. THUS, THE MURDER FIGURES REPRESENT ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG OF VIOLENCE PRESENTLY AFFLICTING KINGSTON.)
5. SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS
A. ON JULY 9 THE POLICE STATION IN TRENCH TOWN, KINGSTON
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RD
DATE 25 JUN 1982
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA/STOI EXEMPTIONS N

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WHICH SITS ON THE BORDER BETWEEN JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) AND PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) AREAS, WAS ATTACKED BY GUNMEN AND A POLICEMAN WAS WOUNDED.

B. ON JULY 13 SEVEN PEOPLE, APPARENTLY PNP SUPPORTERS, WERE KILLED BY GUNMEN IN AN EARLY MORNING ATTACK ON A TENEMENT IN GREENWICH TOWN, A KINGSTON GHETTO AREA. THIS DISTRICT HAS BEEN A PNP STRONGHOLD FOR SOME TIME AND RIVAL POLITICAL GANG WARFARE BETWEEN GREENWHICH TOWN AND SOME ALJACENT JLP AREAS HAS OCCURED.

C. ON JULY 14 A GROUP OF 30-40 MASKED GUNMEN TERRORIZED THE BULL BAY AREA, 7 MILES EAST OF KINGSTON KILLING TWO MEN, BURNING FIVE HOUSES AND TEMPORARILY HOLDING A FEW HOSTAGES ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY.

D. ON JULY 14 A MAN WAS FOUND SHOT DEAD IN CENTRAL KINGSTON WITH HIS THROAT CUT AND HIS BODY IMMOLATED BEARING A TAG

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WHICH READ-"JLP TERRORIST TRYING TO TURN BACK PROGRESS."

E. ON JULY 14, IN A PNP AREA, THREE ELDERLY WOMEN WERE MURDERED IN THEIR SLEEP BY GUNMEN.

F. ON JULY 15 THE TRENCH TOWN POLICE STATION SAME UNDER GUN FIRE FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS WEEK.

6. COMMENT: VIOLENCE IS STILL ON THE INCREASE IN THE ALREADY VIOLENT KINGSTON AREA. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FORNMIN P.J. PATTERSON, IN A JULY 15 SPEECH BEFORE PARLIAMENT, REPORTED THAT 350 PEOPLE INCLUDING TEN POLICEMENT WERE KILLED IN JAMAICA BETWEEN JANUARY AND JULY 1 OF THIS YEAR. THIS NUMBER ALMOST EXCEEDS THE AVERAGE ANNUAL MURDERS RATE FOR JAMAICA OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS. IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JULY, OVER 50 PEOPLE DIED VIOLENTLY, LARGELY IN THE KINGSTON AREA.

7. SECURITY FORCES ARE ALREADY SPREAD THIN AND THE ARMY HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE POLICE IN CRIME SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES. THE INCIDENT AT BULL BAY, AS WELL AS OTHERS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY THE EMBASSY (REFTELS), INDICATE THAT THERE ARE EXTRALEGAL ARMED GROUPS CAPABLE OF CREATING CONSIDERABLE CHAOS IN THE SOCIETY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 5343
8. WHILE SOME OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENCE ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR FACTIONS, HOW MUCE OF THE KILLING IS PURELY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. GROUPS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PNP APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF THE INCIDENTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. THE JULY 13 ATTACK ON THE GREENWICH TOWN TENEMENT, HOWEVER, COULD INDICATE THAT SOME JLP GANGS MAY HAVE DECIDED TO RETALIATE AGAINST ALLEGED PNP INITIATED ATTACKS. SHOULD THIS BY THE BEGINNING OF A WIDER UNLEASHING OF JLP GUNS, FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE VIOLENCE COULD RESULT, POSSIBLY STRAINING THE CAPABILITIES OF THE SECURITY FORCES.
9. OF ADDITIONAL INTEREST ARE THE REPORTS OF RECENT ATTACKS ON POLICE STATIONS AND POLICE PERSONNEL BY GUNMEN OF UNCERTAIN IDENTITY.
10. LOCAL CONCERN OVER THE INCREASING VIOLENCE HAS BEEN GROWING. THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION REPORTS INCREASES IN JAMAICANS SEEKING TO REVALIDATE MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS. GOVERNOR GENERAL GLASSPOLE AND LOCAL GROUPS HAVE CONDEMNED THE KILLINGS AND CALLED FOR RESTRAINT. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, PRIME MINISTER MANLEY
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AND JLP LEADER SEAGA ON JULY 17 ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT CALLING FOR A HALT TO VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM.
MANLEY HAS CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NATIONA SECURITY COUNCIL FOR JULY 18 TO DISCUSS WITH THE JDF AND POLICE PLANS TO COUNTER THE SWELLING VIOLENCE. END COMMENT.
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